

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /061 W

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R 140910Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1452

E O 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS, WB, GW, GE

SUBJ: SEARCH FOR ESCAPED TERRORISTS

REFS: A) USBERLIN 1435; B) USBERLIN 1415

1. SUMMARY: BOTH FRG AND SENAT HAVE SOUGHT GDR'S ASSIST-
ANCE IN SEARCH FOR FOUR ESCAPED WOMEN TERRORISTS. DESPITE
INTENSIFICATION OF POLICE EFFORTS, SEARCH FOR FUGITIVES
THUS FAR HAVE NETTED NO CONCRETE RESULTS. POLICE BELIEVE
TERRORISTS STILL IN BERLIN AND ESCAPE WAS PROBABLY SUP-
PORTED FROM OUTSIDE TO INCLUDE INVOLVEMENT OF THEIR
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LAWYERS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 9 ALLIED PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISERS WERE INFORMED BY ACTING POLICE PRESIDENT DR. PHENNIG THAT FRG CONTACTED A MEMBER OF THE GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN BONN ON JULY 8 TO ADVISE GDR CONCERNING DETAILS OF PRISON BREAK BY FOUR WOMEN TERRORISTS IN BERLIN AND TO ENLIST ITS ASSISTANCE IN SEARCH AND POSSIBLE ARREST OF THE FUGITIVES. GDR REP TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF FRG DEMARCHE, BUT REMINDED FRG THAT IS WAS NOT EMPOWERED TO SPEAK FOR WEST BERLIN. IN WHAT PFENNIG DESCRIBED AS BASICALLY A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON PART OF GDR REP, HE SUGGESTED THAT SENAT SHOULD MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH TO GDR.

3. ON SAME DAY, UTILIZING STILL EXISTENT DIRECT POLICE TELEX LINK BETWEEN WEST AND EAST BERLIN, SENAT PROPOSED MEETING WITH GDR AUTHORITIES AT 10:00 JULY 9 AT OBERBAUMBRUECKE (US SECTOR) CROSSING POINT TO DISCUSS MATTER. CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PRACTICE SINCE 1961 OF VIRTUALLY NEVER ACKNOWLEDGING A MESSAGE SENT TO THEM VIA POLICE TELEX, GDR RESPONDED DIRECTLY BY TELEGRAM TO SENAT AGREEING TO PROPOSED MEETING. TIME OF MEETING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED BY GDR TO 11:00. AT APPOINTED TIME POLICE CRIMINAL INSPECTOR REPRESENTING SENAT HANDED OVER TO THREE GDR REPRESENTATIVES--FUNCTIONARY OF MFA, MEMBER OF STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, AND VOPO LIEUTENANT--FILES DETAILING ESCAPE AND CHARGES PENDING AGAINST THE FUGITIVES. THE MEETING LASTED APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES AND WE UNDERSTAND THE GDR REPS WERE BUSINESS-LIKE, COOPERATIVE, AND FRIENDLY ADVISING THAT THEY HAD ALREADY INITIATED STEPS TO SEARCH FOR ESCAPED TERRORISTS. ACTING POLICE PRESIDENT PFENNIG COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT FRG AND SENAT ARE CONVINCED GDR WOULD EXERT MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ARREST TERRORISTS SHOULD THEY BE FOUND THERE, SINCE THIS WOULD PROVIDE GDR WITH POLITICAL LEVERAGE TO EFFECT JUDICIAL EXCHANGE WITH FRG FOR WEINHOLD, WHOSE EXTRADITION HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY GDR FOR MURDER OF TWO EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARDS.

4. PFENNIG ALSO INFORMED ALLIES OF INTENSIFIED POLICE SEARCH MEASURES THAT WERE PUT INTO EFFECT LATE LAST WEEK
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IN BERLIN IN CONJUNCTION WITH SIMILAR SECURITY CONTROLS BEING EXERCISED IN FRG. THESE INCLUDE:

A) CONTROLS OVER ALL ROAD, RAIL, AIR AND SHIPPING ROUTES OUT OF BERLIN. PARTICULAR ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID TO BARGE TRAFFIC ON BOTH THE BERLIN AND FRG TERMINALS FOLLOWING TIP RECEIVED BY POLICE THAT INGE VIETT INTENDED TO ESCAPE FROM BERLIN BY BOAT.

B) EXTENSIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN THE VERNACULAR

DIRECTED TO MAJOR IMMIGRANT WORKER GROUPS--I.E. TURKS, GREEKS, AND YUGOSLAVS--SINCE LOW-INCOME DISTRICTS OF CITY WHERE MOST OF GASTARBEITER LIVE AFFORD SOME OF THE BEST CONCEALMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUGITIVES.

C) REGULAR POLICE BRIEFINGS FOR POSTAL, MUNICIPAL AND TRANSIT EMPLOYEES AND TAXI DRIVERS--I.E. THOSE ELEMENTS OF WORK FORCE HAVING GREATEST EXPOSURE TO PUBLIC AND KNOWLEDGE OF CITY IN ORDER TO ENLIST THEIR HELP IN THE SEARCH. DURING MANHUNT FOR 2 JUN SUSPECTS, POLICE ADMIT TO NOT HAVING MADE EXTENSIVE ENOUGH USE OF THIS VALUABLE PERSONNEL RESOURCE.

D) INTENSIFIED VEHICLE CHECKS IN SELECTED AREAS AROUND THE CITY TO INCLUDE DRIVERS AS WELL AS ALL PASSENGERS. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO POLICE CONTROL OF PASSENGERS IN VEHICLES STOPPED FOR SPOT CHECKS HAD TO BE SUSPENDED WHEN PRESS AND CITIZENS PROTESTED PRACTICE WAS UNJUSTIFIED INVASION OF PRIVACY.

E) ACQUISITION OF 25 VEHICLES FROM USED-CAR DEALERS TO BE USED FOR SEARCH OPERATIONS. POLICE EXPLAIN TERRORISTS AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS ARE REMARKABLY ADEPT AT IDENTIFYING UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLES NORMALLY USED.

5. IN ADDITION, AFTER CONSULTING WITH ALLIES, POLICE HAVE REQUESTED DISPATCH TO BERLIN OF 65 POLICEMEN FROM BAVARIA AND NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA TO AID IN SEARCH AND OBSERVATION OPERATIONS. THE ALLIES CONCURRED AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES FROM THE POLICE THAT EXTRA OFFICERS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE JULY 12 WOULD BE DRAWN FROM REGULAR POLICE FORCES OF LAENDER, NOT FROM BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ; WOULD TRAVEL TO BERLIN UNARMED AND IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, WOULD BE ISSUED BERLIN POLICE UNIFORMS AND WEAPONS SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY, WOULD FALL UNDER COMMAND OF POLICE PRESIDENT DURING THEIR STAY IN BERLIN, AND THEIR PRESENCE CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD NOT BE UNDULY PUBLICIZED. AT SAME TIME, WE APPROVED ON CONTINGENT BASIS USE OF US DUTY TRAIN IF POLICE NEED TO TRANSPORT FROM FRG SPECIALLY CONFIGURED VEHICLES FOR SEARCH OPERATIONS.

6. DESPITE INTENSIFICATION OF POLICE EFFORTS AND RECEIPT OF OVER 400 LEADS, SEARCH TO DATE HAS YIELDED NO CONCRETE RESULTS. UNLESS TERRORISTS MANAGED WITHIN EARLY HOURS AFTER THEIR ESCAPE TO CROSS INTO EAST BERLIN, POLICE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE HIDING OUT IN WEST BERLIN, AND ROUTING THEM OUT WILL ENTAIL THE SAME LABORIOUS AND PAINSTAKING INVESTIGATIVE TACTICS THAT EVENTUALLY PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN FIRST LOCATING THE GROUP OF LORENZ AND VON DRENCKMANN CASE SUSPECTS.

7. WHILE POLICE HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT HELP TO THE FUGITIVES CAME FROM WITHIN THE LEHRTERSTRASSE PRISON STAFF, THEIR INVESTIGATION THUS FAR HAS FAILED TO CONFIRM THIS SUSPICION. THE CLOSED-CIRCUIT TV SYSTEM WAS NOT BEING MONITORED AT THE TIME OF THE ESCAPE BUT POLICE BELIEVE MORE LIKELY SOURCE OF SUPPORT CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE, TO INCLUDE TERRORISTS' LAWYERS, KNOWN TO HAVE RADICAL TENDENCIES. THE INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED THAT ONE OF THE ESCAPEES (BERBERICH) COULD HAVE UNLOCKED THE CELL DOOR FROM THE INSIDE HAD SHE BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE KEY. FURTHERMORE, TERRORISTS WERE RECENTLY IN ATTENDANCE AT A WORKSHOP HOUR WHERE CLAY AND WAX MATERIAL WERE AVAILABLE; THE SUPERVISORY ATTENDANT REPORTED THAT DURING CLASS HER SET OF KEYS WHICH SHE LEFT ON A TABLE WERE LATER FOUND IN THE HANDS OF AN ANARCHIST PRISONER ATTENDING THE CLASS (NOT AN ESCAPEE HOWEVER). CRIME LAB PERSONNEL REPORTED AFTER THE ESCAPE THAT TRACES OF WAX WERE PRESENT IN THE LOCKS OF ESCAPEES' CELLS. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, FUGITIVES, PENAL INSTITUTIONS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USBERL01452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC ADJUSTED PER USBERLIN 1537
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-1188
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760757/aaaabyna.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 1435, 76 USBERLIN 1415
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEARCH FOR ESCAPED TERRORISTS
TAGS: PINS, WB, GE, GC
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006